



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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# Hidden Oaks Nature Center LID Parking Lot Started

It's a parking lot and so much more! Groundbreaking ceremonies are slated for Saturday, June 2, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. as the Fairfax County Park Authority begins renovation work at the Hidden Oaks Nature Center parking lot. The small lot will benefit from the use of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques that help mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff and ultimately improve the health of our streams and lakes. This \$350,000 project, funded in the 2004 Park Bond, is another example of the use of innovative methods that support the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's 20-year environmental vision, as well as aligning with the Fairfax County Park Authority's mission to serve as stewards of the environment.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is located within Annandale Community Park. The current parking lot is too small to accommodate growing numbers of visitors. The existing access road is also inadequate and creates a hazardous condition as parked vehicles reduce the maneuverability of emergency vehicles and buses. The addition of 20 new parking spaces and a new access road will help resolve those issues. Construction will begin within the next two weeks. Project completion is anticipated in fall, 2007. Hidden Oaks Nature Center will remain open during construction and parking will be at the Packard Center at 4020 Hummer Road.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors awarded a contract to the Arthur Construction Company of Dulles, VA earlier this week. The LID project will feature porous, brick pavers and bio-filtration in the design and construction. The pavers allow water to pass through to the soil below. Since the pavers are porous, the runoff can be captured in a bio-retention basin. The project will also feature interpretive signage explaining the environmental benefits of the new technology.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is located at 7701 Royce Street in Annandale. Hidden Oaks may be reached by taking Beltway Exit 52B which is Little River Turnpike or Route 236 east to the first traffic light at Hummer Road. Turn left on Hummer Road and then left at the park entrance.

For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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